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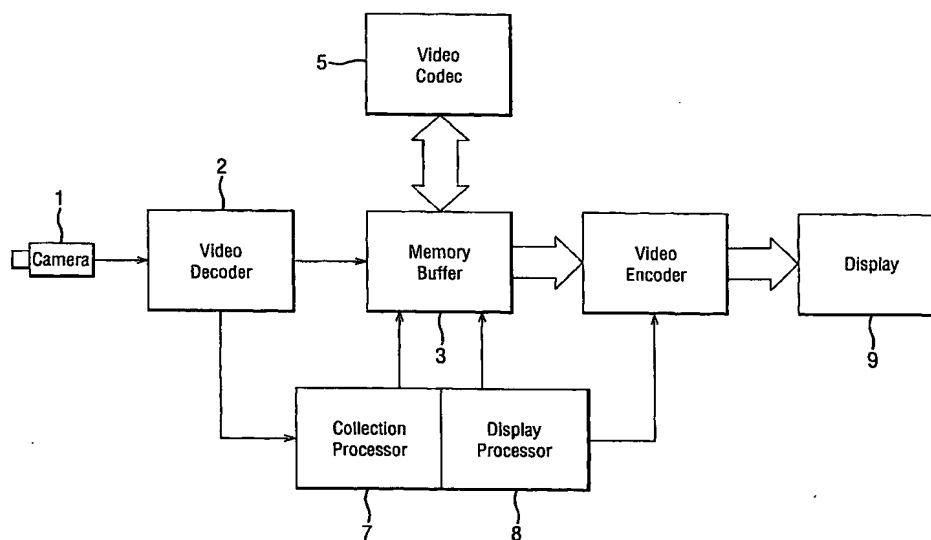
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COMPRESSING DIGITAL IMAGES



(57) Abstract: The invention aims to provide a system which maximises the use of limited resources such as storage and/or transmission bandwidth while maintaining good image quality on predetermined areas or areas of the image selected by e.g. a trigger event or any other external stimulus. The method of the invention may therefore be applied to still image compression systems and motion compensated systems. At its most general, the present invention provides a method of compressing images at resolutions lower than the original image, and at higher levels of compression, but compressing motion areas or regions of interest at higher resolutions and lower levels of compression. The method may be applied to any compression method.



For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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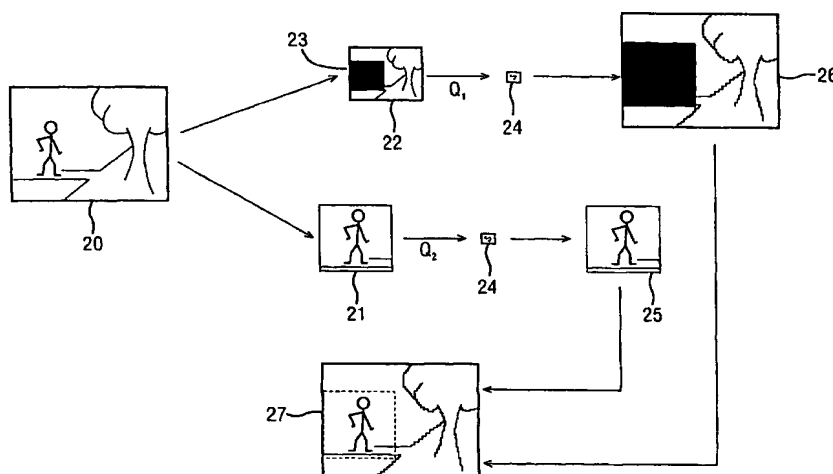
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COMPRESSING BACKGROUND AND REGION OF INTEREST A DIGITAL IMAGE AT DIFFERENT RESOLUTIONS



(57) Abstract: The invention aims to provide a system which maximises the use of limited resources such as storage and/or transmission bandwidth while maintaining good image quality on predetermined areas or areas of the image selected by e.g. a trigger event or any other external stimulus. The method of the invention may therefore be applied to still image compression systems and motion compensated systems. At its most general, the present invention provides a method of compressing images at resolutions lower than the original image, and at higher levels of compression, but compressing motion areas or regions of interest at higher resolutions and lower levels of compression. The method may be applied to any compression method.



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